

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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APPROVED BY S/ S

ARA - MR. CRIMMINS

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ARA/ OAS - MR. CRIGLER

S/ S - MR. MILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098444

TOSEC 247

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, AR, UY

SUBJ: SECVISIT LA: CAMPORA INAUGURATION

REF: LIMA 3187 AND STATE 96322

JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY, PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY

1. FROM PRESS REPORTS IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY WILL NOW HEAD HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT- ELECT CAMPORA.

2. WHILE THERE IS NO SPECIAL NEED FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE HELPFUL SHOULD HE DO SO:

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3. COURTESY POINTS:

-- EXPRESS GRATIFICATION OVER THE RECENT SUCCESS AGAINST THE TUPAMARO URBAN GUERRILLAS IN URUGUAY AND THE RECENT CAPTURE OF THE PERSON WHO ALLEGEDLY MURDERED THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISOR IN URUGUAY, DAN MITRIONE.

-- REMARK THAT IT WAS GOOD TO MEET WITH URUGUAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER JUAN CARLOS BLANCO IN WASHINGTON APRIL 6, AND RECALL BLANCO'S EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, AND UNDERSTANDING AT THE CEREMONY OF SIGNING THE NEW EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN URUGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES.

-- THE SECRETARY MIGHT ALSO REMARK ON THE GOOD SPEECH FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO MADE AT THE OASGA IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL 1973, AND ON URUGUAY'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE OAS.

4. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY WAS BORN IN MONTEVIDEO ON JUNE 17, 1928. HE ATTENDED THE LAW SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC FOR 2 YEARS BUT LEFT AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY RANCH. FROM 1959 UNTIL 1962 BORDABERRY SERVED AS THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL MEAT BOARD. BORDABERRY SUCCEEDED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL LEAGUE FOR RURAL ACTION IN MARCH, 1964. IN NOVEMBER, 1962 HE WAS ELECTED A NATIONAL SENATOR ON A COMBINED RURALIST- BLANCO TICKET. BORDABERRY RESIGNED HIS SENATE SEAT IN MARCH 1965, BUT IN 1969 BECAME MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK. US OFFICIALS WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM FOUND BORDABERRY FORTHRIGHT AND COOPERATIVE. ON NOVEMBER 28, 1971, HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY FOR A 5- YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON MARCH 1, 1972. CONSCIENTIOUS AND HARD- WORKING, THE PRESIDENT APPEARS TO BE SINCERE AND MOTIVATED BY A STRONG SENSE OF MORALITY. HE IS MARRIED, HAS SEVEN CHILDREN AND SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH.

5. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM DOMINANT MILITARY ACTIVISTS DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, BUT HAS THUS FAR BEEN ABLE TO BALANCE, BEND, AND ACCOMMODATE, AND THEREBY MAINTAIN AT LEAST THE OUT-CONFIDENTIAL

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WARD STRUCTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN URUGUAY. RUSH

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